



To the Right Honourable Members of the High  
Court of Parliament for the Commonwealth  
of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

*The humble Petition of divers Prisoners in the  
Fleet*

S H E W E T H :



That your Petitioners by the oppression of their cruell  
Adversaries and Creditors, and policy of subtile  
Attorneys and Solicitors adhering to them, are up-  
on Judgements, Executions, Contempts, and De-  
crees, surreptitiously obtained, most unjustly im-  
prisoned, and that the Judges now appointed have  
no power upon the same to relieve them; some of  
which Judgements, Executions, Contempts, and  
Decrees are upon pretended Debts, where nothing  
is due, others for far greater sums then are due, or  
your Petitioners able to pay, by which means they  
are bereft of their Estates, credits, and employments, to the utter ruine of them-  
selves and families.

That whereas many of your Petitioners who formerly lived comfortably, and  
in these sad times of War have been utterly undone (should be the objects of Mer-  
cy and pitty) yet they find nothing but the Rigor of the Law executed upon them,  
to the satisfaction of Obdurate Creditors and misery of your undone Petitioners.

That the remainder of the Estates of your poor petitioners undone as aforesaid by  
judgements, Executions &c. being so obtained, must goe to satisfie one man one-  
ly, whereas many other consciencious Creditors, some perhaps as poore as your Pe-  
titioners not having obtained that advantage must have no satisfaction.

Your Petitioners humbly pray, that the Judges appointed may have power  
to right and free them from the said Judgements, Executions, Contempts,  
and Decrees, so unjustly gotten (which power given them by the said  
Act) is abridged and taken away by the Ordinance; your Petitioners  
through restraint wanting meanes to relieve themselves by course of  
Law, and that those who have beene ruinated by Sea and Land by the  
sad accidents of War, may have Equity according to conscience, and not  
the rigour of Law to passe upon them, and that those who have nothing  
to satisfie, or are willing to part with what they have, may bee dischar-  
ged, according to the late Act as poore, and that the compassionate Cre-  
ditor, as well as cruell, may have their equall proportions.

*And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.*